



## “The Best Kept Secret Inside The Beltway!”

### *Aeration: A Necessary Evil*

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Just when the greens are starting to look good... you can count on John Delsignore and his crew to come through and tear them up! The Pinecrest Golf Course maintenance crew aerates the course's greens twice a year; once in the spring and once in the fall. This is a necessary process. For those who may not understand the why and how of aerating, let us explain. Aeration is the process of punching small holes in the green; small cores of turf and sod are cut and removed from the green. This process of coring allows more air into the soil and relieves compaction. The primary purpose of core aeration is the removal of unwanted organic matter from the upper portion of the root zones.

In order for grass to grow at 3/16-inch, it must have deep, healthy roots. Good roots

demand oxygen. In good soil, they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles. These air pockets are crushed when soil becomes compacted, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Additionally, as soils become compacted and poorly drained, the gas exchange is restricted. Root growth is reduced and the ability of the turf grass plant to take up water and nutrients is inhibited. The turf soon becomes weak and thin with poor color. It may also be more susceptible to attack by disease-causing organisms.

Aeration improves the water filtration rate. The first step is to punch the holes in the soil and remove the cores. The holes provide channels through which water may move and allow air and nutrients to reach the soil roots. They also act as small reservoirs to hold water which reduces runoff. PGC uses a riding machine to punch these holes.

*Continued on page 3*



*Step 1: This machine punches holes in the soil to assist in the aeration process.*



*Step 2: Soil amendments are applied.*



*Step 4: After brushing, the dressings are added.*

## The Happenings Around the Clubhouse

### • Leagues of Their Own

PGC is host to both a Men's League and a Women's League. The men meet on Wednesday mornings and often get together to play other courses as well. The ladies meet on Monday mornings and also enjoy social outings. Are you interested in playing in one of our leagues? Please see a Pro Shop attendant for more exciting details.

### • Putting Championship

The Men's League hosts a friendly putting competition every Thursday evening around 5:30 p.m. that is open to the public. Come join in the fun. For more details see a Pro Shop attendant.

### • Handicap System

Did you know you can keep your handicap at PGC? For only \$30 you can conveniently maintain your official VSGA handicap, and update your personal information and courses played using the clubhouse computer open for public use.

### • New Bag Racks and Driving Cages

The bag racks and driving cages have been given a needed face lift. Our resident handyman, Frank Northrop, replaced the old bag rack with a new one and added stands at the outdoor driving cages. Our hard working maintenance staff updated the turf and netting at the driving cages.

### • Gardening and Pruning

Ernie and Fran Watkins work hard all year round on the garden around Pinecrest Golf Course. Their knowledge and many hours of work never go unnoticed. We look forward to seeing PGC



*The hard work of our paid and volunteer employees does not go unnoticed.*



*Steve Flynn, Men's League and Volunteer Coordinator, and Katrina Atkins, one of PGC's Assistant Managers.*

at its best as the warm season continues.

Mark Stupalski, another hard working employee, was at it again. He pruned the trees that outline the front of PGC so that the facility is more visible from the entrances. Along with his many other projects, Mark recently painted the starter shack, driving cages and the bag holder stand.

### • Geese Patrol

We are doing all that we can to control the geese. We have implemented a number of measures to discourage the presence of Canada Geese on the course. These measures include introducing naturalized borders around the ponds, and using dogs and an approved program of cap guns to "shoo" geese.

### • Lessons For All

Want to have a better game or just want the bragging rights? Take lessons with our world-class instructors from Every Body Golf School.

For information pick up a flyer at the clubhouse or call Every Body Golf School at 703-255-5376

### • Calling All Juniors

The Junior Golf Program includes discounted lessons, free clinics, reduced fees for junior tournaments, discounted non-prime greens fees and much more for only \$12. See a Pro Shop attendant for more information.

### • Have Beer and Drink it Too

Virginia ABC has now permitted beer to be consumed on the clubhouse patio. However, it may not be taken beyond the patio.

*Continued on page5*



*Golfers enjoy the friendly competition of the weekly Putting Championship.*



*The facility is easily viewable from the main roads, thanks to Mark Stupalski's pruning work.*

**Why Pay For Golf?  
Earn Free Golf**

**Volunteer as a:  
Tee Starter  
Players Assistant  
Pro Shop/ Snack Bar  
Attendant**

**Inquire at the Pro Shop**



## Winter Wonder Pinecrest Land



*The new self-composting restroom located between holes three and six.*

### • Self –Composting Restroom

They removed the port-a-john and replaced it with an environment friendly self-composting restroom. The restroom is situated on the hill between holes three and six.

### • New Pump House

The new and much improved pump house is sure to be a blessing. It includes the latest technology which in turn saves energy, irrigation system wear and tear, and extends the pump station life. It too is environment friendly.



*The new and improved pump house.*

### • Water Cooler Stands

New water cooler stands which hold three water coolers were built and installed. They can be found at the third, fifth, and seventh tee boxes.

### • Pond Dredging

In early April 2006 a nearby Seville Homes site's silt fence gave way during heavy rain. The silt made its way into our irrigation pond by holes two and seven and filled the back enlarged portion of the pond. As a good neighbor act the Project Manager, Mark Kuhn, dredged the pond at our request.

### • Planting Donated Trees

Beware...everyone's favorite obstacle on a golf course, trees. (At least they give you your ball back.) About 40 trees and shrubs were recently donated to PGC. These along with other trees and shrubs that were purchased have been planted around the course. You will see that they are marked with orange plastic ties.

Our thanks to Nancy Olney and Frank Jankauskas of Green Spring Gardens for their help in planting trees.

## Aeration: A Necessary Evil cont'd

The second step includes laying soil amendments. These amendments include nutrients that the soil needs.

Topdressings are then spread over the putting greens to level and smooth the surface. Topdressing also improves drainage, controls thatch and maintains biological balance.

Brushing spreads the topdressings and soil amendments over greens. This promotes nutrients to settle in the soil.

The last step is to roll the greens. This process levels out the greens so that they are ready for play.

Although aerating is inconvenient, it is an essential practice to promote healthy greens.

It relieves soil compaction, provides a method to improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots and reduces or prevents the accumulation of excess thatch.

Resources:

PGC Superintendent- John Del-signore  
and



*Step 3: The third step is to apply topdressings.*



*Step 4: After the topdressings are applied they are then brushed in.*



*Step 5: The final step is to roll the greens.*

## TeeTimes.com System Changes

TeeTimes.com was recently bought by SPS Golf Management Solutions. SPS kept the same URL (teetimes.com) for marketing purposes but made some major changes to the site.

Currently, a golfer making a tee time for Pinecrest Golf Course at teetimes.com must click on the blue box labeled "NoVA Municipal Golfers Click Here to make a tee time." A new window will open prompting the golfer for his or her user name and password.

The golfer will then be prompted to enter his or her destination, date, time and number of golfers. The system will check the availability and prompt the golfer to select an available tee time while reminding the golfer of the previous information that was provided. The golfer is then given the option to e-mail the information to other golfers in their group. The fifth and final step of the reservation process is to display pricing information as well as a summary of

reservation details provided by the golfer, i.e. tee time, date, number of golfers. When the golfer clicks on "Book tee time," the process is complete.

Please be aware that changes have also been made to the structure of the tee sheets. PGC starters may double check information from golfers as they check in.



*Please be aware that some changes have been made on teetimes.com.*

## The Pros Shop Here

Pinecrest Golf Course strives to meet the demands of today's golfers. We carry that commitment of service to our Pro Shop, where we offer great products at low prices.

The PGC Pro Shop is stocked with apparel, push carts, golf bags, umbrellas, golf balls, golf gloves, books and

other golf-related accessories. We carry the best quality items at hard-to-beat prices. Take a look at our hard-to-find items such as Titleist trucker hats, and Virginia Tech and Washington Nationals hats.

Stay tuned for future sales.



*Just one of our low priced carry bags. This bag retails at \$99.99. You can find in the PGC Pro Shop for \$85.*

## The Good Stuff

### Did you know...

The average golfer leaves about 12 ball marks during a round of golf. With an average of 160 rounds, that means that greens suffer 1,920 ball marks a day and 58,400 ball marks a month. Additionally, a typical golfer creates 45 divots during a round of golf. This equates to 7,200 divots a day or 2,628,000 divots each year!

[http://grounds-mag.com/mag/grounds\\_maintenance\\_repair\\_divots\\_ball/index.html](http://grounds-mag.com/mag/grounds_maintenance_repair_divots_ball/index.html)

### Tips From the Pros...

#### For Hole Two on PGC

Your drive goes in the pond marked by red stakes. It is a designated lateral water hazard. For a one penalty stroke try replaying the shot that went into the hazard from as near to the original spot as possible or drop the ball within two club-lengths of a spot on either side of the water hazard that is equal distance to the hole from

the point where the ball last crossed the hazard boundary.

-EBGS Instructor Lloyd Vakay

### Jokes (or Facts)...

- The less intelligent the player, the more certain he [or she] is to offer insights into the mental side of the game.
- Never leave your opponents with the sole responsibility for thinking of all the things that might go wrong with [their] shot – remind them.

<http://www.golfsocal.com/>

**Please Remember to  
Fix Your Ball Marks  
and  
Replace Your Divots!**

**Thank You For  
Helping to Keep  
Pinecrest Golf Course  
in Good Shape!**

## Oh Beaver, Where Art Thou?

Where are the beavers when you need them? As you may know the upper dam is broken. Heavy rainfalls during the weekend of April 22nd destroyed the dam. The pond in which the dam broke is the source for running the irrigation system for PGC. We had a drought soon after which caused the water levels in that pond to fall even more. As a result, the irrigation system is not able to pump water at normal levels. PGC maintenance crew has been forced to hand-water the greens. Work is underway to have the dam fixed as soon as possible. PGC

hopes to have the dam functioning properly by mid June. However, it may be some time before the entire area is cleared of all damage and debris.

PGC would like to thank Donnie Hawkins and Chris Trivit as well as the rest of the Park Authority's Mobile Crew for help with repairing the dam. Additionally, we would like to thank the PGC maintenance crew for their continued hard work on the dam and the course.



*The broken dam by holes two and seven. The top picture shows how large of an area was damaged. The picture on the bottom shows how far back the damage extends.*

## Happenings Around the Clubhouse cont'd

### ● Father's Day Tournament

Teams of two compete in a scramble format in three divisions: fathers with 8 to 12 year olds, fathers with 13 to 17 year olds, and fathers with 18 year olds and older. Prizes awarded in each division and closest to the pin contest.

June 18, Rain date June 25  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Reservations required, \$40 per team.

Register at the clubhouse.

### ● Family Golfing Days

Spend time with the family and enjoy a game of golf together. For the entire month of August come out to Pinecrest Golf Course and take advantage of our special offer. Parents, pay for your round of golf and your son or daughter (ages 8-17) will receive their round and a pull cart for free. Limited to one child per paying adult. Mention our Family

Golfing Days promotion to receive this discount.

### ● Junior Tournament

Junior golfers compete in a nine-hole stroke play format. Participants are divided into age groups: 8 to 10, 11 to 13 and 14 to 17. Prizes will be awarded in each division and for closest to the pin contest.

August 5 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Reservations required, \$20/ Junior Program members, \$25/non-members.

Register at the clubhouse.

### ● NEW Golf Fit Classes

Better your health and your handicap while you get fit for the game of golf. Using strength training equipment, you will learn to develop muscular strength that can improve your game, reduce your risk of injury, and add greater power to your swing and follow-through.

Classes at Pinecrest Golf Course begin September 18 and will run through October 18. Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The cost is \$72 for 10 classes.

To register:

Phone: 703-222-4664 (live)

703-449-8639 (automated)

or see a Parktakes issue for registration form to fax or mail in.

### ● Home School Golf Classes

Every Body Golf School will be holding classes at PGC during the afternoons.

The first class (Fall 1) begins September 13 and runs through October 25. These classes are offered to children ages 9 to 14. The classes meet Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$105 for these seven-week classes.

To register call Every Body Golf School at 703-256-4653 or 703-255-5396




## Summer Tips

• Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Drink plenty of fluids; start drinking water at least two hours before beginning any outdoor activity. Bottled water as well as soft drinks are sold at the snack bar. There are water coolers with cups located at the third, fifth and seventh tee boxes.

• Use sunscreen and reapply it often. You'll either sweat it off or towel it off. Sunscreen is sold at the Pro Shop.

• Dress for the heat. New fabrics used in golf attire absorb sweat, protect against ultraviolet light and keep you cooler. Wear light-colored clothing which absorb less heat from the sun. Protect your face by wearing a hat and protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses that block at least 99 percent of the UV radiation.

*Summer brings many heavy storms. Be sure to use these helpful Lightning Safety Tips courtesy of USGA.*



### LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS

**Avoid**

- Solitary trees
- Small rain and sun shelters
- Large, open areas
- Wet areas
- Elevated areas
- All metal objects including: golf clubs, golf cars, fences, electrical and maintenance machinery, and powerlines.

**Seek**

- Large, permanent building
- Fully-enclosed metal vehicle (car, van or pickup)
- Dense area of trees or bushes
- Lowest elevation area

If close-in lightning does not permit evacuation to a safer place, crouch in a baseball catcher's position with feet together and hands on knees.

**Note:** The USGA emphasizes that players in a competition have the right to stop play if they think lightning threatens them, even though the committee may not have authorized it specifically by signal (Rules 6-8 and 33-2d).

Lightning safety tips courtesy of:  
National Lightning Safety Institute  
891 Hoover Ave., Louisville, CO 80027  
www.lightningsafety.com

Published by:  
United States Golf Association  
PO Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931  
T 908 234-2300 F 908 234-9687  
www.usga.org

## EVERY BODY GOLF SCHOOL

### 2006 Summer Junior Golf Camps

Now Offered at FOUR Northern Virginia Locations!!!

Certified Instruction for Boys and Girls, Ages 8-17.

Camps last five days, from 8-11:30 am or 12:30-4:00 pm.

**COST: \$190 ★ Loaner Clubs Provided**

*We maintain a "Safety First Learning Environment."*



**CAMPERS RECEIVE:**  
Diploma, Water Bottle,  
T-shirt, Hat, Logo Ball,  
Tees, Green Repair Tool,  
Ball Marker and Snacks.

#### OAK MARR: 703-255-5396

Summer Break Camps: (8 am to 11:30 or 12:30 to 4 pm)  
June 26 - 30, July 17 - 21, July 31 - August 4, August 14 - 18,  
August 28 - September 1

#### BURKE LAKE: 703-425-4653

Summer Break Camps: (8 am to 11:30 or 12:30 to 4 pm)  
June 26 - 30, July 24 - 28, August 7 - 11, August 21 - 25

#### TWIN LAKES: 703-845-4653

Summer Break Camps: (8 am to 11:30 or 12:30 to 4 pm)  
June 26 - 30 (PM Only), July 10 - 14 (PM Only), July 17 - 21 (AM Only),  
July 24 - 28 (PM Only), July 31 - August 4 (AM Only), August 7 - 11  
(PM Only), August 14 - 18 (AM Only), August 21 - 25 (PM Only),  
August 28 - September 1 (AM Only)

#### PINECREST: 703-256-4653

Summer Break Camps: (8 am to 11:30 or 12:30 to 4 pm)  
June 26 - 30, July 17 - 21, July 31 - August 4, August 14 - 18



**CAMPERS LEARN:**  
Putting, Chipping,  
Irons, Woods, Sand  
Play, Rules, Etiquette  
and Course  
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**Our Popular Golf Camps Fill Quickly ★ Enrollment Limited ★ Payment Reserves Spot**

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## Meet The Staff

### Management

#### Tom Toth- General Manager

Tom began his career with the Park Authority in 1977 at Lake Accotink Park. Throughout his 29-year career with Fairfax County, he has worked in various positions at various facilities. The past nine years have been spent with Golf Enterprises, a branch of FCPA. This Annandale native enjoys playing golf with both his father and son. Tom first learned the game of golf at the original privately owned Pinecrest Golf Course. He played the course on opening day and still enjoys the quaint course.

#### Jon Casey- Assistant Manager

Another Pinecrest veteran, Jon began his career with a summer job at the golf course. He is a Virginia Tech graduate who enjoys the college's sports as well as golfing and his two cats. The area native has been married for a year and a half.

#### Katrina Atkins- Assistant Manager

Katrina is a recent Radford University graduate and newlywed who is new to the game of golf. She has been with Pinecrest for only a short time but seems to be fitting right in.

### Part Time Clubhouse Staff

Al- As a volunteer snack bar/ pro shop attendant, Al has been with Pinecrest for over 20 years. In 2004, he was nominated and won the prestigious Elly Doyle Park Service Award

Allie-He has been seasonal manger at Pinecrest for over a year. Allie is also a fulltime elementary teacher . He enjoys playing golf and tries to play as often as he can.

Andy- This California native and San Diego State grad loves sports and ethnic foods.

BJ- BJ has been an employee of PGC for the past four years. He will be studying film at VCU upon his graduation from O'Connell HS.

Frank- A native of Fargo, ND whose career has been spent in bowling. He is new to the game of golf and enjoys building and flying model planes.

Gordon- He has been with Pinecrest for many years. Gordon enjoys the game of golf and is part of the Men's League.

Jessica- A senior at Annandale HS who has a passion for photography. She has been with Pinecrest for two years. She also will be leaving to attend college at Barry University on the Miami Shore. (Lucky!)

John- A senior at JEB Stuart HS who is an avid Lacrosse player. John plans to attend UVA this fall.

Maggie- A senior at Annandale HS who plans to study Business at GMU. Her interests include fashion and music; the Counting Crows is her favorite band.

Marcus-A sophomore at TC Williams who is currently on the JV crew team and plans to move up to varsity. He enjoys roller

skating and listening to his iPod.

Nancy-She has been with Pinecrest for over a year now. She is also the Assistant Dean of Parks and Recreation at Northern Virginia Community College. She enjoys spending time with her family, the outdoors and outdoor activities.

Patrick- A seasonal employee in the snack bar/ pro shop.

Steve- You will not find him working behind the counter. He is the Men's League and volunteer coordinator. A picture of Steve in all his glory can be seen on page two.

### Maintenance Staff

#### John Delsignore- Superintendent

John is also Virginia native who first learned how to play golf at Pinecrest Golf Course when it was a much larger course. John first began his career in golf with clubhouse work and has since moved on to maintenance work.

Mike- Assistant Supervisor.

Salvador- Full time.

Natanael (Nate)- Part Time with PGC and full time with FCPA.

Matt (Little Matt)- Seasonal.

Matt (Big Matt)- Seasonal.

Wallace (Smitty)- Seasonal.

### Instructors-

Bill Avent - A golf teacher for the past 10 years who particularly enjoys teaching short game and course management.

Lloyd Vakay- A retired dentist who has been teaching golf for quite some-time. He welcomes golfers of all skill levels and enjoys using computerized video analysis.

Pinecrest Golf Course  
would like to extend a special  
thank-you to our customers for their  
patronage over the past 20 years.

We would also like to extend  
a special thank-you to our  
paid and volunteer staff for their  
continued hard and much  
appreciated work.

## Fairfax County Park Authority

*Pinecrest Golf Course*  
6600 Little River Turnpike  
Alexandria, Virginia 22312  
Phone: 703-941-1061



### Check Us Out On The Web

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrest>



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-324-3988. Please allow seven working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Pinecrest Golf Course is a challenging and narrow course with hills and ponds, creating a golfing experience suited for both novices and experts alike. The full service clubhouse includes a pro shop, snack bar with indoor and outdoor eating areas. Golf clubs, riding carts and pull carts are available for rent. Group or individual golf lessons and golf outings may also be scheduled.

Pinecrest features a cart path, a putting green, outdoor driving cages and an indoor practice area.

The course is open all year, weather permitting.

For questions or comments contact us at 703-941-1061, ext 5 for the pro shop.

## *Pinecrest Golf Course Calendar of Events*

June 15	Spray date Open at 9:00am
June 17	Junior Golf Program– Chipping Clinic
June 18	Father's Day Tournament
June 26-30	EBGS Summer Junior Golf Camp
June 29	Spray Date Open at 9:00 am
July 13	Spray Date Open at 9:00 am
July 17-21	EBGS Summer Junior Golf Camp
July 22	Junior Golf Program– Iron Clinic
July 27	Spray Date Open at 9:00 am
July 31-Aug 4	EBGS Summer Junior Golf Camp
August 1-30	Family Golfing Days
August 5	Junior Tournament
August 10	Spray Date Open at 9:00 am
August 14-18	EBGS Summer Junior Golf Camp
August 19	Junior Golf Program– Woods Clinic
August 24	Aerating Greens Open at 11:00 am
September 7	Spray Date Open at 9:00am
September 13	Home School Lessons Begin
September 18	Golf Fit Classes Begin

### Other Fairfax County Park Authority Resources

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)

Fairfax County Park Authority Calendar of Events- A monthly publication that lists the calendar of events for that month

Parktakes- A quarterly guide to parks and recreation in Fairfax County

Resources- A quarterly newsletter that celebrates Fairfax County Park Authority volunteers

Tee Up- A brochure guide to Fairfax County Park Authority golf courses

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